

JUL 14 1964

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

SS General at Trial:

U.S. Deserted Me

By United Press International

MUNICH, Germany.

Former Nazi SS Gen. Karl Wolff, who surrendered the German armies in Italy to OSS head Allen W. Dulles, blamed the United States yesterday for "leaving me in the lurch" to face trial as a war criminal.

Gen. Wolff, who said his May 1, 1945, surrender of the Nazi armies saved thousands of allied lives, pleaded innocent when he went on trial yesterday, charged with directing the slaughter of 300,000 Jews at the Treblinka death camp in Poland.

"I would like to avoid, if possible, inciting hatred of America—although I have much bitterness in my heart for the American government leaving me in the lurch to sit here today," Gen. Wolff told the war crimes court.

The tall, sharp-featured former general, who became a prosperous publisher's representative, said American promises to treat him honorably after the war had not

been kept. "My family went into a prisoner of war camp," he said. "They tried to strip my shoulder insignia. Even my cufflinks were taken."

He said he asked the Allies to try him with top Nazis at Nuremberg in place of SS chief Heinrich Himmler, who committed suicide by poison.

"I wanted to vindicate the decent part of the SS, but my wish was interpreted as suicidal mania," Gen. Wolff said. He said the Allies put him in a mental home temporarily while the Nuremberg tribunal tried and hanged most of the defendants.

"These crimes took place without my knowledge, without my approval, they were none of my doing," he said of the Treblinka deaths. "I remained true to the old ideals. They duped me, used me."

Gen. Wolff, gray-haired but erect despite his 64 years, was known as the "good SS general" for his dealings with the Allies. He told of his dazzling career under the Nazi superiors he now says

he is convinced deceived him.

He said it was "pure coincidence" that he became one of Adolf Hitler's elite guard in 1931. He boasted that Himmler once called him "Wolffchen" (Wolfie), but said they quarreled and he was sent to Italy.

He said the first overtures to surrender the Nazi armies in Italy came in May, 1944, and that he met secretly with Pope Pius XII. Later he slipped three times into Switzerland to bargain with Mr. Dulles and Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, now the supreme commander of NATO forces.